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SUBJ: VISIT OF GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO TO INDIA - MUCH ADO ABOUT
VERY LITTLE

REF: LIBREVILLE 12006

SUMMARY TO VISIT OF GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO TO INDIA RESULTED
IN ROUTINE POLITICAL TALKS WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI
AND A PROTOCOL ON TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. INDIA HOPES
TO STEP UP INVESTMENT AND TRADE WITH GABON. END SUMMARY

1. GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO VISITED HERE FROM OCTOBER 12 TO
OCTOBER 15. AS REPORTED IN THE INDIAN PRESS, THE DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN BONGO AND MRS. GANDHI INDICATED A "CLOSE IDENTITY OF
VIEWS" ON ALL REGIONAL AND WORLD POLITICAL ISSUES DISCUSSED,
AND SPECIFICALLY NOTED INDIA'S "POSITIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS" AND ITS STEPS TO PROMOTE PEACE ON THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT.
THE PM AND PRESIDENT "STERESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HARNESSING
NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTAND OF ENSURING THAT ACCESS
TO THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
DOES NOT REMAIN CONFINED TO A FEW COUNTRIES."

2. ALSO ON A POLITICAL LEVEL, BONGO AND MRS. GANDHI REVIEWED
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THE QUESTION OF WHITE MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,

TAKING NOTE OF THE DECOLONIZATION OF THE PORGUESE TERRITORIES AND CONDEMNING RACISM AND APARTHEID. INDIAN PRESIDENT AHMED AND MRS GANDHI ACCEPTED BONGO'S INVITATION TO VISIT GABON AT A LATER DATE.

3. A PROTOCOL ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WAS WORKED OUT AND SIGNED BY INDIAN MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES T.A. PAI AND GABONESES MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE PAUL MOUKAMBI. THE PROTOCOL, CALLED FOR AN INDIAN DELEGATION OF EXPERTS TO VISIT GABON LATER THIS YEAR TO DECIDE ON SPECIFIC MEASURES OF COOPERATION AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, MINING, PETROLEUM, FISHERIES, AND EDUCATION. ACCORDING TO THE PROTOCOL, GABON EXPRESSED THE DESIRE FOR DIRECT INDIAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ABON IN SUCH INDUSTRIES AS SOAP, GLASS, PLYWOOD, SHOES, AND TOBACCO, NOTING THAT GABONESE REGULATIONS ON INVESTMENT WERE VERY LIBERAL. THE GOI AGREED TO CONTACT INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS INTERESTED IN VENTURES IN GABON. THE GABONESE SAID THEY WOULD SHORTLY LAUNCH A NEWSPRINT PROJECT WHICH COULD SUPPLY PART OF INDIA'S NEEDS. INDIA OFFERED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GABON IN THE FORM OF TEACHERS, DOCTORS, AND ENGINEERS.

4. THE GOI EXPRESSED INTEREST IN UNDERTAKING TURNKEY PROJECTS IN GABON, PROVIDING CONSULTING SERVICES, AND PROSPECTING FOR PETROLEUM, AS WELL AS ACCEPTING SUBCONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF MACHINERY FOR REFINING, MINING, AND A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES. INDIA HAS PROMISED TO SUPPLY GABON WITH RAILROAD CARS AND TRACK EQUIPMENT, FOR DELIVERY FROM 1977 TO 1980. GABON IN TURN OFFERS TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF PALM OIL FOR EXPORT TO INDIA. THE GABONESE DELEGATION WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPORT MORE INDIAN MOVIES, AS WELL TELEPRINTERS AND PRINTING MACHINERY.

5. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE MANAGED TO MAKE MUCH ADO ABOUT VERY LITTLE.

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